

## Message Text

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61

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EA-06 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 PM-03 NSC-05 SS-15 /053 W

----- 103426

R 121400Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5790

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E.O.: 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CM, US

SUBJ: PRESS TREATMENT OF VIETNAM EVENTS

REF: YAOUNDE 1519

1. IN MEETING WITH PRESIDENCY ASSISTANT SECGEN SENGAT KUO MAY 2 ON OTHER SUBJECTS, I EXPRESSED MY SHOCK AND DISAPPOINTMENT OVER LANGUAGE OF EDITORIAL THAT HAD APPEARED THAT MORNING'S ISSUE OF CAMEROON TRIBUNE TITLED "AN EMPIRE COLLAPSES" (REFTEL). MY PRINCIPAL POINTS WERE THAT U.S. CAN ACCEPT CRITICISM OF ITS POLICIES ON VIETNAM (AND CAN DEFEND THEM). WHAT WAS PARTICULARLY DISTRESSING ABOUT EDITORIAL WAS THE OFFENSIVE LANGUAGE USED WHICH SOUNDED AS IF IT CAME STRAIGHT OUT OF A COMMUNIST HAND-OUT. IF CAMEROON TRIBUNE, AS I BELIEVED, WAS TRYING TO PROJECT AN IMAGE OF AN OBJECTIVE NEWSPAPER, EDITORIAL IN QUESTION CERTAINLY BELIED THIS.

2. SENGAT KUO REPLIED THAT HE HAD NOT SEEN THE EDITORIAL BUT FROM WHAT I HAD TOLD HIM HE COULD STATE IT DID NOT REPRESENT GURC'S POSITION AS REFLECTED BY ITS POLICY OF MAINTAINING RELATIONS WITH BOTH THE GOVERNMENTS OF SOUTH VIETNAM AND PRG. HE COMMENTED THAT ALTHOUGH HE IS CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF CAMEROON TRIBUNE, HE DOES NOT ACTIVELY SUPERVISE ITS ACTIVITIES. IN GENERAL THERE HAS BEEN A TENDENCY TO GIVE THE PAPER A CERTAIN FREEDOM TO EXPRESS AN INDEPENDENT VIEWPOINT THAT WAS NOT NECESSARILY THAT OF THE GOVERNMENT. A NUMBER OF STAFF MEMBERS OF THIS NEW PAPER ARE RELATIVELY INEXPERIENCED WITH THE RESULT THAT NEWS-

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PAPER'S CONTENT IS NOT ALWAYS WHAT IT SHOULD BE.

3. I OBSERVED THAT CAMEROON TRIBUNE SPONSORSHIP WAS SUCH THAT READERS WOULD ASSUME ITS EDITORIALS REFLECTED GURC ATTITUDES AND POSITIONS. HE DID NOT DENY THIS BUT COMMENTED THAT TO ACHIEVE SUCH CONTROL A MEMBER OF THE POLITICAL BUREAU WOULD HAVE TO BE GIVEN DIRECT RESPONSIBILITY FOR SUPERVISION OF THE PAPER AND THIS WAS NOT DESIRED.

4. WE WILL BE WATCHING OUTPUT OF CAMEROON TRIBUNE TO SEE IF MY INTERVENTION HAS HAD ANY EFFECT. SHOULD THE OFFENSIVE LANGUAGE CONTINUE, WE WILL MAKE A MORE FORMAL PROTEST.  
MOORE

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, GOVERNMENT OVERTHROW, POLICIES  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
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**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Reference:** 75 YAOUNDE 1519  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** greeneet  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 21 AUG 2003  
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**Review Transfer Date:**  
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**TAGS:** PFOR, CM, US, VS  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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